

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please amend the identified paragraphs as follows.

[0001] This application is a continuation-in-part of prior U.S. Application No. 10/486,962, ~~filed February 12, 2004~~, which is the National Stage of International Application No. PCT/EP02/09275 filed August 15, 2002.

[0023] Returning to FIG. 4, at step 80 ~~removes~~ the newly manufactured center electrode assembly is removed and transferred to an area where it can be automatically inspected. The inspection can either be on-line or off-line and can use, for example, optical techniques to sort and detect for quality rejects. At this point, the process is capable of repeating itself.